

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 77-134 are pending in the application, with 77, 101, 113, and 120 being the independent claims. Claims 135-141 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejections***

In the Office Action, claims 77-134 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-56 of U.S. Patent No. 6,163,794.

Applicants are submitting a Terminal Disclaimer concurrently herewith to overcome the double patenting rejection. Thus, Applicants respectively request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claims 135-141 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dilip, *et al*, U.S. Patent 6,657,990. In order to expedite allowance of this case, Applicants have cancelled each of these claims without prejudice to or disclaimer of the

subject matter therein, thereby rendering these rejections moot. Applicants hereby expressly reserve the right to present the cancelled subject matter in a continuation application.

### ***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Thomas C. Fiala  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 43,610

Date: April 28, 2004

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600